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ELEMENTS AND EPHEMERIS OF COMET *f*, 1896,
(PERRINE).

BY F. H. SEARES.

The following elements and ephemeris of comet *f*, 1896, (PERRINE), have been computed by Mr. CRAWFORD and myself, from observations made at the Lick Observatory by Mr. PERRINE on November 2d, 3d, and 4th.

The observations were sent by telegraph to the Students' Observatory by Dr. HOLDEN.

$T = 1897 \text{ January } 23.6384 \text{ G. M. T.}$

$$\left. \begin{array}{lll} i = 145^{\circ} & 55' & 22'' \\ \Omega = 79 & 52 & 47 \\ \omega = 138 & 59 & 40 \end{array} \right\} \text{Mean Equinox, 1896.0}$$

$\log q = 0.172302$

Representation of the middle place:

$O - C. \Delta \lambda \cos \beta = -3''.7. \quad \Delta \beta = +0''.9.$

EPHEMERIS FOR GREENWICH MEAN MIDNIGHT.

		^a			^δ	$\log \rho$	Br.
Nov. 11.5	20 ^h	8 ^m	29 ^s	+ 18°	23'.3	0.219	0.92
15.5	20	4	17	15	42.8	0.235	0.88
19.5	20	0	56	13	16.7	0.251	0.84
23.5	19	58	19	+ 11	4.0	0.267	0.81

The brightness on November 2d is taken as unity.

STUDENTS' OBSERVATORY, University of }
California, November 13, 1896. }

BENJAMIN APTHORP GOULD.

BY R. H. TUCKER.

A life of devotion to science and of high achievement has closed. While fitting record of the wide extent of Doctor GOULD's contributions to astronomy will be made by others, it is proper to give expression to the admiration and esteem which he inspired in the many, to whom came the opportunity to share in his pursuits.

His was an example of untiring energy and of intense application, and the results of his labors are of a solid and enduring character. He had the distinction of being the first American astronomer, educated as such, and the influence of the great men of that past generation, ARGELANDER, GAUSS, and ARAGO, with whom he studied, may have strengthened the bent of his own talent for thorough and substantial work. He had the faculty of inciting the strongest zeal in those who labored for him and with him, while his sympathy and encouragement strengthened the bond which held them in a common cause. Not otherwise could the results of the Cordoba Observatory have been accomplished. They form almost an epitome, for the Southern sky, of the needs of astronomy in the department of star positions—the Uranometry, for standard magnitudes of the brighter stars; the Zones, embracing a network of well-distributed stars, whose places are exact enough for reference in differential measures; and finally, the General Catalogue, giving more thoroughly determined places for the more important stars. With the *Durchmusterung*, included as a possible undertaking in the original scheme of Doctor GOULD, but carried out after his departure, these several Catalogues represent in general the steps required for the determination of stellar places, and nearly in the order followed in the survey of the Northern heavens.

Mention should not be omitted of the early and successful photographs of star clusters, taken at Cordoba, which will furnish such record of those wonderful aggregations in the southern sky as could be obtained in no other way. They are in no sense to be treated as mere pictures, and remembrance is quite vivid of the gentle repulse given to a collector, who desired some for that purpose. The plates have been undergoing exhaustive measurement in this country; and many stars of the clusters were observed with the meridian-circle at Cordoba, for reference points.

Perhaps the incident referred to may be an illustration of the stand taken by Doctor GOULD early in his career, and adhered to throughout. Belonging to the old regime, he did not favor much popularizing of astronomy, and was strongly opposed to the notoriety that comes through the daily papers, and to the publication of immature work. The usefulness to science was the object striven for, and to this end the energies of the observatory were bent, without division of endeavor. Success in that aim attained, there was no striving for personal eclat.

With his associations formed in this country, and strong ties to hold him here, the life in Cordoba was, in a sense, one of exile, only to be taken up with so worthy an object. To his younger assistants the novelty of a somewhat unconventional life in a new country had, doubtless, its attractiveness. The kindly and familiar intercourse there established, never losing in dignity, became closer, and was more appreciated in a foreign land, not, indeed, without charm of its own.

Since his return to this country, Dr. GOULD's interest had been mainly given to the *Astronomical Journal*. His later years have been filled with the peaceful calm that follows active endeavor, and the happiness that is sometimes the reward of unselfish devotion. The lines of Dr. HOLMES, in "The Iron Gate," when Age lifts the door-latch, seem to picture these closing years.

"What though of gilded bawbles he bereaves us,
Dear to the heart of youth, to manhood's prime;
Think of the calm he brings, the wealth he leaves us,
The hoarded spoils, the legacies of time!

"Altars once flaming, still with incense fragrant,
Passion's uneasy nurslings rocked asleep;
Hope's anchor faster, wild desire less vagrant,
Life's flow less noisy, but the stream, how deep!"

